(c) if not, the reasons for not starting such a viable project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Captain Dastur, a pilot by profession submitted a proposal for Garland Canal. It mainly consists of two canals, viz., (i) a 4200 km. long and 300 m wide Himalayan Canal at an elevation between 335 meters and 457 meters above the Mean Sea Level (MSL) aligned along the Southern slopes of the Himalayas and extending southwards beyond Brahmaputra up to Mayanmar border and (ii) a 9300 km. long and 300 m wide Central and Southern Garland canal at an elevation between 244 meters and 305 meters above the MSL. The Himalayan and Garland canals were proposed to be interconnected at two points (Delhi and Patna) by pipelines for transfer of water. The cost estimated by Captain Dastur (around 1974) was Rs. 24,095 crores.

The proposal was examined by two committees of Experts comprising Experts from Central Water Commission, State Governments and Professors who were of the opinion that the proposal was technically unsound and economically prohibitive. Preliminary studies carried out by the Central Water Commission (around 1979) indicated that the cost of the Dastur proposal would be about Rs. 12 million crores. The scheme was, dropped being technically unsound and economically prohibitive.

Conversion of Anganwadis

4867. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposals to bring all the I.C.D.S. projects under the Central Sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to convert the units of Anganwadis into basic educational institutions and allot them the job of providing pre-school education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the facilities being provided under the latest package of ICDS scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been universalised during 1995-96 and, accordingly, a decision has been taken, with the approval of Minister for Human Resource Development to convert all the on-going 511 State Sector ICDS Projects to Central Sector ICDS Projects. Of these 511 projects, 194 State Sector projects will be converted into Central Sector Projects during 1996-97. The remaining 317 State Sector Projects will be converted into Central Projects w.e.f. 1.1.98, i.e. after conclusion of the World Bank assistance for these projects.

(b) and (c) The ICDS Scheme provides a package of services to children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Non-formal pre-school education to pre-school children in the age group 3-6 years forms an important component of the package of services under the ICDS Scheme. The operational anganwadi centes are, accordingly, organising pre-school activities for children in the age group of 3-6 years. And since pre-school education forms an integral part of the package, the question of converting anganwadi centres into basic Educational Institutions does not arise.

Girls Schools

4868. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of Higher Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools for girls in various districts of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Allahabad;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for opening girls Higher Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Assistance for Irrigated Land in U.P.

4869. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance for increasing the percentage of irrigated land in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete suggestions have also been given by the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.